

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15

NSC-05 /053 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:WEDGAR:BG

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

EUR/SOV - MGARRISON

EUR/SOV - MDIXON

EB/AN - WRILEY

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R 160109Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 256806

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, UR, US

SLBJECT: US-SOVIET CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS

1. DURING LUNCH ON OCTOBER 12 WITH SOVIET TRADE REPRESENTATIVE MKRTUMOV, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE CURRENT STATE OF US-USSR CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ARMITAGE EXPLAINED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD, AFTER CONSIDERABLE EFFORT, OBTAINED APPROVAL TO PROPOSE A REVENUE POOLING SCHEME EARLIER THIS YEAR. THE SOVIET SIDE INITIALLY SEEMED INTERESTED IN OUR PROPOSALS AND WILLING TO DISCUSS THEM ON A CONSTRUCTIVE BASIS. AT A MEETING IN MOSCOW IN JUNE, HOWEVER, THE SOVIETS REFUSED TO GIVE OUR PROPOSALS FURTHER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

3. ARMITAGE POINTED OUT THAT REVENUE POOLING APPEARS TO
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BE THE MOST REALISTIC AND EFFECTIVE WAY TO EXPAND AEROFLOT'S

AND PAN AM'S SHARE OF THE US-MOSCOW TRAFFIC IN A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL WAY. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES WILL RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION ON OUR POOLING

PROPOSALS. IF WE CANNOT WORK OUT NEW ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD, IN PRACTICE, PROVIDE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE BENEFITS, HE SAID, THE ALTERNATIVE IS A REDUCTION OF SERVICES TO MINIMAL LEVELS, WHICH IS IN THE INTEREST OF NEITHER SIDE.

4. MKRTUMOV SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT DEAL WITH CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS HIMSELF, AND WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, HE WOULD BE SURE TO BRING ARMITAGE'S CONCERNS TO THE ATTENTION OF AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN. HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE256806
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WEDGAR:BG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760389-1222
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761044/aaaabmbi.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-SOVIET CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS
TAGS: EAIR, UR, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006